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 NARA JK DATE 4-01-10

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NAKA JK DATE 4-01-10

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EXCISE

THE FOREIGN SERVICE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

OFFICIAL INFORMAL
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

American Embassy, Moscow,
Department of State,
Washington 25, D.C.,
May 8, 1962.

Dear Bob,

Thank you for your letter of April 30 on [Robert Webster] As you will have seen from our cables of May 4 and 8, he has cut his ties with Leningrad. He is now quartered at the Hotel Bucharest in Moscow, and we may expect frequent telephone calls from him inquiring about his case from now on. I can assure you that we did not advise him to quit his job in Leningrad, and I think he realized not long after he did it--as his own money began to run out--that it was a premature decision.

Nevertheless, we were surprised to hear of VO's preliminary finding that [Webster] is ineligible for a visa. We would be most interested to know their thinking on this subject, since we agree with you--barring some unexpected revelation at the interview with him--that it is in the U. S. interest to let him return. I hope the Legal Adviser can quickly find the formula to make this possible.

You will also have noted our cable of May 4 on the OSWALD case. If the 243(g) waiver is not granted soon on this one, I think we should call the Oswalds in and send them on to Belgium. It is not that our hearts are breaking for Oswald. His impertinence knows no bounds. His latest letter contained an imperious demand that the State Department stop trying to get travel funds from his relatives in the U.S. He apparently thinks, by the way, that the travel money question is the only reason we've deferred calling him and his family in, although I informed him some time ago that a loan as needed of up to \$500 had been approved. On the two or three recent occasions he has telephoned from Minsk, I have had to refer lamely to a still unsettled "problem" which is still holding up his wife's case.

Finally, I might mention our interest in an early decision by the Passport Office in the matter of [Morris Beck] His wife [Jane] has been keeping the telephone wires hot between Odessa and Moscow inquiring whether I have any news for her. I assume the Passport Office will render an opinion subject to our findings at a personal interview with [Beck] there.

Sincerely yours,

Joe

Joseph B. Norbury
Second Secretary of Embassy

Robert I. Owen, Esquire,
Officer in Charge Political Affairs,
Office of Soviet Union Affairs,
Department of State,
Washington 25, D.C.

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